

of Naples, when Holland was on the eve of being offered to Louis, and Jerome had exchanged his legitimate wife for the illegitimate throne of Westphalia, the Imperial pillow was still far from, being free from anxiety. Hostilities did not actually exist with the Continental powers; but this momentary state of repose lacked the tranquillity of peace. France was at war with Russia and England, and the aspect of the Continent presented great uncertainty, while the treaty of Vienna had only been executed in part.

In the mean time Napoleon turned his eyes towards the East. General Sebastiani was sent to Constantinople. The measures he pursued and his judicious conduct justified the choice of the Emperor. He was adroit and conciliating, and peace with Turkey was the result of his mission. The negotiations with England did not terminate so happily, although, after the first overtures made to Lord Yarmouth, the Earl of Lauderdale had been sent to Paris by Mr. Fox. In fact, these negotiations wholly failed.

The Emperor had drawn enormous sums from Austria, without counting the vases, statues, and pictures with which he decorated the Louvre, and the bronze with which he clothed the column of the Place Vendome,¹ — in my opinion the finest monument of his reign and the most beautiful one in Paris. As Austria was exhausted all the contributions

¹ Other countries were even more despoiled than Austria, and the French occupations and exactions in Italy gave rise to many bitter pasquinades, among them the following may be found in Mr. Story's charming work, *Roba di Roma*: —

" I Franchesi son tutti ladri I " The French are all thieves —
Non tutti — ma Buona parte." | Or at all events the *best*
part of them."

A clever epigram was made on Canova's statue of Italy, which was represented as draped: —

" Qucata volta Csmova l'ha sbugliaf a " For once Canova
surely has tripped,
Ha l'Italia ventita ed e spogliata." Italy is not draped, but,
stripped."

One also referring to the institution of the Legion of Honor is admirable in its wit: —

" In tempi men leggiadri e ¹In times less pleasant, more fierce
pid feroci 8'appicavano i of
ladri in au le Croce. In upon the cross,
tempi men feroci e piu we're told. In times less
fierce, more pleasant like
to-day.
Crosses are hung upon the
thieves — they say."